

REMARKS

Claims 22-44 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 22, 27 and 28 are amended without narrowing, for clarity purposes only, and claims 36-44 are added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Pending Claims 22-44 Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 22-24 and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,412,397 to Kanatani et al. (hereinafter "Kanatani") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,686,936 to Maekawa (hereinafter "Maekawa 936") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,307,085 to Nakamura (hereinafter "Nakamura"); claims 25, 26, 30 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kanatani in view of Maekawa 936 and Nakamura and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,816,816 to Usui (hereinafter "Usui"); and claims 31, 32, 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kanatani in view of Maekawa 936, Nakamura and Usui, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,856,816 to Youn (hereinafter "Youn") and European Patent Application No. EP 0 678 848 to Maekawa (hereinafter "Maekawa 848"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Regarding the rejection of independent claims 22, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicant submits that Maekawa 936 does not qualify as prior art under any section of 35 U.S.C. §102, and thus cannot be applied as the basis of a §103 rejection. Specifically, the U.S. filing date of Maekawa 936 is April 18, 1995. However, the present application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application No. 7-15120, filed February 1, 1995, which predates the U.S. filing date (and issue date) of Maekawa 936. All of the rejected claims of the present application are supported in the Japanese Patent Application No. 7-15120. An accurate English-language translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 7-15120 is attached herein.

Because Maekawa 936 does not qualify as prior art under any section of 35 U.S.C. §102, Maekawa 936 cannot be used as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) because "before answering Graham's 'content' inquiry, it must be known whether a patent or publication is in the prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102." Panduit Corp. v. Dennison Mfg. Co., 810 F.2d 1561, 1568, 1 USPQ2d 1593, 1597 (Fed. Cir.). Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of claims 22-35 based on Maekawa 936 be withdrawn.

Claims 22, 27 and 28 have previously been amended to include the feature "the line sequential driver outputting a plurality of simultaneous pulses to connected data line" in response to a rejection based on Maekawa 936. These amendments were erroneous because, as described above, Maekawa 936 does not constitute prior art. Thus, claims 22, 27 and 28 are amended to delete the recitation "the line sequential driver outputting a plurality of simultaneous pulses to connected data lines" that was added in the January 29, 2004 Amendment.

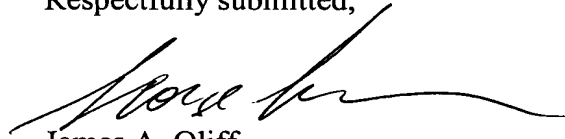
New claims 36-44 recite further features of the invention. Support for these features is found throughout the specification of this application. No new matter is added.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 22-44 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GPS/hs

Attachments:

Accurate English-language translation of
Japanese Patent Application No. 7-15120
Amendment Transmittal

Date: April 23, 2004

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